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Terms	Documents
L6 and aggregat$	18

7/24/02

Database: US Patents Full-Text Database; US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database; JPO Abstracts Database; EPO Abstracts Database; Derwent World Patents Index; IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search: L7

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Search History

DATE: Wednesday, July 24, 2002 Printable Copy Create Case

Set Name side by side	Query	Hit Count	Set Name result set
	DB=USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ		
L7	L6 and aggregat$	18	L7
L6	L1 and (auction or trade or trading or bid$ or cross-sell$)	51	L6
L5	L3 and ((705/$)!.CCLS.)	9	L5
L4	L3 and ((705/37)!.CCLS.)	0	L4
L3	L2 and aggregat$	50	L3
L2	L1 and (auction or trad$ or bid$ or cross-sell$)	172	L2
L1	html and xml	305	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

L7: Entry 7 of 18 File: USPT

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6338050 B1
TITLE: System and method for providing and updating user supplied context for a negotiations system

Assignee Name (1):
Trade Access, Inc.

Assignee Group (1):
Trade Access, Inc. Boston MA 02

Brief Summary Text (10):
In typical intranet client/server technology, one computer acts as a Web server computer to perform complex tasks, while other, smaller computers or terminals are "clients" that communicate with the Web server. In typical client/server intranets the client requests data and performance of tasks from the Web server computer. A Web server program runs on the Web server computer to provide Web server functions. The communications between these intranet clients and Web servers is in Hypertext, or HyperText Markup Language (HTML)--the "language" of the Internet's World Wide Web.

Brief Summary Text (12):
While this has been an advance for internal communications over a private network, it does not usually provide any interactive, iterative, multivariate negotiations capabilities and it requires personnel familiar with HyperText Markup Language (HTML) to create hypertext links in documents to create and maintain the "internal" Web pages. If a more interactive approach is desired, an Information Technology (IT) specialist in some form of scripting, such as CGI, or PERL is needed who can create forms documents and procedures to allow users to ask for information from the Web server. Again, this is custom programming at the user's site, and still does not provide multivariate negotiations or commerce capabilities.

Brief Summary Text (16):
For corporations that sell at retail, one technique for selling goods over the Internet 04 is shown in FIG. 2b (Prior Art). This scheme uses the concept of a hosting "mall" 24 Website that enables buyers to browse through stores 28 (individual participating selling corporate Websites or aggregated catalog systems) and use a "shopping cart" 26 feature for selecting items to purchase. Participating sellers in a mall 24 create their own Websites which list items for sale and prices. The mall usually provides the shopping cart technique for the buyer to use to select items to buy. Such Internet 04 sales techniques also use security systems for transmitting payments by credit card 30a and 30b or CYBERCASH.TM. payment methods (not shown). Most of these mall Website are significantly limited in the interaction, if any, they allow between buyers and sellers. A few allow limited price negotiations between buyers and sellers, but none allow iterative, multivariate negotiation and bargaining for both price and terms, such as availability, shipping, carrier, payment methods, risk of loss, etc.

Brief Summary Text (35):
For international processing there are other payment methods available, but these are usually done manually or offline. For example, wire transfers allow bank-to-bank payments for international transactions in any tradable currency. However, these are done over private bank networks and usually between companies which have already established a purchasing relationship--i.e. for MRO or administrative purchasing.

Wire transfers are used more often in international trade than company checks, because the processing time for a wire transfer is faster than check processing and the fees charged by the banks are often lower. The participating banks usually handle the currency conversion as part of the process. Again, however, this usually requires some fairly sophisticated interbanking networks in the applicable countries.

Brief Summary Text (47):
Obtaining samples from vendors known to the production buyer is significant in itself, as seen above. However, in today's international trade, the overwhelming majority of potential buyers and sellers are not aware of each other's existence. Yet international trade is increasing by double digit numbers each year, so an obvious need exists for more capability. Many countries are taking advantage of the "leapfrog" effect by using the Internet and the latest in information technology (IT) to build instant infrastructures for competing in international commerce. Some countries and trade regions have set up inspection services for potential outside buyers, so that a buyer can obtain an independent assessment of a particular vendor's production facilities from such services. This saves some time and travel expense. However, it still does not provide a buying team with samples for evaluation. With current Internet commerce systems there is no effective way to order such samples. By the time terms and conditions for a sample order have been negotiated manually at such distances, the samples are not likely to be relevant any longer to the buyer company's development goals.

Brief Summary Text (49):
Production purchasing negotiations such as these are usually done by telephone, on-site visits, faxes and other non-automated means of conducting a negotiation today. This work is labor intensive, and if travel is involved, expenses climb. If the transaction is an international one between two countries with different currencies, customs, and trade practices, it can take even longer and cost more to conduct the negotiations.

Brief Summary Text (68):
One system does attempt to address a few things from a buyer's viewpoint. This is the Priceline.com system which is described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,794,207 Method and Apparatus for a Cryptographically Assisted commercial Network System Designed to Facilitate Buyer-driven Conditional Purchase Offers, issued Aug. 11, 1998, to Walker et al., assigned to Walker Asset Management Limited. This is essentially an online bidding process in which a buyer specifies the price it desires to pay for an object, such as an airplane reservation or a car. The bid is submitted over the Internet to a central site which analyzes a database of sellers of that type of item to find one or more selling the object at close to the bid price. These matches or near-matches are presented to the buyer, who can then select from them and place a conditional purchase offer. If the seller accepts, the sale is made. A buyer can initiate another round of bidding if there is no good result from the initial one. While this system has benefits for certain types of purchases, usually of completed, commodity items, it does not address the needs of production buyers outlined above. It does not provide iterative bargaining between the buyer and seller on all aspects of a multivariate transaction, nor does it connote much, if anything about the participating sellers. It is similar to other auction sites on the World Wide Web which allow you to submit bids to a seller or auctioneer, but do not provide the opportunity to bargain interactively with the seller on all the terms. A bid submission process is quite different from a price and terms negotiation process. Bid submission systems are usually designed to assist a seller in disposing of excess inventory. Hence, some malls and enterprise server applications provide limited electronic commerce, but none provide true multivariate negotiation ability.

Brief Summary Text (89):
Yet another aspect of the present invention is that it allows a seller to specify and manage the terms of trade it wants applied to its sales, such as using the full range of Incoterms or other established trade terms.

Detailed Description Text (6):
Additionally, while one form of sponsored community addresses corporate buyers and

sellers engaged in production purchasing, other commerce communities could be implemented. For example, stock or commodity trading over the Internet might be conducted using the present invention. A sponsor, such as a traditional stock exchange or a newer type of securities body could establish the standards for accepting stockbrokers into the community. Such standards might include compliance with applicable securities regulations and so on. The sponsor can monitor and regulate actual iterative multivariate negotiations such as options, puts, calls, at the market or not at the market, etc., for buying and selling of commodities or securities electronically over the Internet. Or a trade show organizer might sponsor a community for allocating and iteratively negotiating accommodations, placement, footage, signage, facilities, etc., amongst vendors and suppliers at the show site.

Detailed Description Text (8):
Many other types of communities can be created with the present invention. For example, governmental agencies might sponsor trade commerce communities for regional trade development efforts. International organizations might sponsor a community to assist countries in negotiating complex treaties.

Detailed Description Text (20):
Next, in FIG. 1L, network functions 207 of the present invention are shown. As mentioned above, most of the functions of multivariate negotiations engine 212 are actually implemented as part of Webserver software 210s. As data is sent to and from the Internet 04 by Webserver 210W, Webserver software 210s interprets the TCP-IP protocol and transfers the contents to multivariate negotiations engine 212's Webserver and dynamic HTML functions 207-02. In one embodiment, these functions cause dynamic HTML text to be created to implement and communicate with the other functions of the present invention. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that Java, Java scripting, XML, or any of a number of other languages could also be used for such communications.

Detailed Description Text (23):
Now turning to FIG. 1n, database functions 222 are shown. First, database functions 222 are able to communicate with all other functions and services of the present invention and vice-versa. For example, as a remote Web authoring 214-02 request is handled by participant functions 214, Webserver software 210s fields the request and communicates it through IP firewall 203f to database functions 222, asking the database server software managing database functions 222 to process the request and return the appropriate information. The database server software performs searches, analysis, and any computations needed to hand back the correct data. Webserver software 210s formats the returned data, and through conventional common gateway interface scripting techniques, creates dynamic HTML (or XML or Java or Java-compatible, etc.) text for ultimate display. This formatted data, in turn, is transmitted to the appropriate sponsor or participants' browsers over the Internet.

Detailed Description Text (52):
One of the paradoxes of international trade now is that as today's global economy expands exponentially the number of potential buyers and sellers, it becomes correspondingly difficult for them to find each other and negotiate agreements. The present invention addresses this in a number of ways. First, a sponsored community increases the visibility of member companies which are sellers. The methods described below in connection with functions to promote visibility for the sponsored community and its members significantly increase the likelihood that a buyer, searching for a new supplier over the Internet will find members of such sponsored communities and that they will be more likely to meet the buyer's needs. For example, trade development communities can be established using the present invention, including as sellers only those that meet the qualifications outlined by the sponsor. This simplifies a prospective buyer's search and evaluation task significantly. The sample order quantity purchasing features (also described in more detail below) of the present invention, significantly reduce the time it takes for a buyer to qualify a new supplier or seller anywhere in the world.

Detailed Description Text (65):
Sellers with existing digital versions of their product catalogs or inventory tracking systems are able to integrate them with the present invention using application programming interfaces (APIs), file transfer protocols (FTP), or

extensible markup language (XML), which latter method is in the final stages of becoming a standard language for the Web.

Detailed Description Text (68):
With reference now to FIG. 1j, a diagram of the sponsor functions 213 is shown. Generally speaking, a sponsor 06 builds a community and establishes its rules 213-02. In one embodiment, a sponsor 06 can create the community Website from templates available from multivariate negotiation system 02's site. In other embodiments, a sponsor may have already invested millions of dollars in the creation of its own database(s) and Website, and simply wants to have the community enabled from there, using applications programming interfaces (API's) or the new XML language when it is standardized. The present invention permits either or both methods of creating or enabling a community Website.

Detailed Description Text (69):
As seen in FIG. 24, the rules or standards for the community can be as comprehensive or as simple as the sponsor 06 desires. For a commercial site, for example, sponsor 06 may want to require all sellers to be compliant with a particular standards organization's applicable quality standards, such as the International Standards Organization (ISO), shown as R1 here. Additionally, sponsor 06 may want to insure that all fees due to sponsor from sellers are paid in full and kept up to date--rule R5. As another example, a sponsor for a regional trade development community may want to insure that each seller is able to handle importing and exporting of goods--rule R3, meets some specified minimum performance capabilities such as rule R6, just-in-time capability or rule R7, bar code processing, or rule R8, ability to handle specified payment methods.

Detailed Description Text (73):
Since, as noted above, it may take the ALTAVISTA.TM. search engine and others, as many as three months or more to index a site on a purely random basis, submissions such as this can significantly improve the visibility of the new seller Websites from the outset. Automating submissions to them further speeds up this process. In addition, aggregating all of the submissions under the sponsor community hierarchy is likely to generate exponentially more traffic as it takes advantage of the Internet's architecture and search engine indexing capabilities. Traffic, such as inquiries by potential buyers against any of the keywords submitted for the community site will come into the community environment.

Detailed Description Text (95):
As seen in FIGS. 1f and 1o, database 225 of the present invention is automatically integrated with the functions of the multivariate negotiations engine system 02. As HTML text is received, requests and data are extracted from it (as described in more detail below) into dynamic HTML for storage in database 225 in the appropriate "folders" for the respective members.

Other Reference Publication (7):
"TradeAccess Sponsors First U.S. Trade Mission Web Site For Department of Commerce," PR Newswire, Dec. 1997.*

CLAIMS:

means for aggregating submissions of sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators to optimize registration and visibility and automatically submitting the aggregated submissions to the selected search engines on the selected schedules.

aggregating submissions of sponsored community names, member names, and uniform resource locators to optimize registration and visibility and automatically submitting the aggregated submissions to the selected search engines on the selected schedules.

47. The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the remote web authoring software enables the user at a terminal to integrate existing electronic versions of relevant user supplied context data into the customized website using extensible markup language (XML).

54. The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the step of customizing the website further comprises the step of enabling the user at the initiating terminal to integrate existing electronic versions of relevant data into the customized website using extensible markup language (XML).

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L39: Entry 7 of 11 File: USPT Aug 7, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6272473
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6272473 B1

TITLE: Method, apparatus, and embodied data structures for optimal anytime winner determination in combinatorial auction-type problems

DATE-ISSUED: August 7, 2001

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Sandholm; Tuomas	University City	MO	63130	

APPL-NO: 09/ 179659 [PALM]
DATE FILED: October 27, 1998

INT-CL: [07] G06 F 15/30

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/37; 705/26, 705/27, 705/35
US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37; 705/26, 705/27, 705/35

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/35, 705/37, 705/26

PRIOR-ART-DISCLOSED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Search Selected | Search ALL

	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
☐	5406476	April 1995	Deziel, Jr. et al.	364/402
☐	5826244	October 1998	Huberman	705/37
☐	5835896	November 1998	Fischer et al.	705/37
☐	5886902	March 1999	Turrini	364/491
☐	5890138	March 1999	Godin et al.	705/26
☐	5905974	May 1999	Fraser et al.	705/37
☐	5905975	May 1999	Ausubel	705/37

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Michael H. Rothkopf et al., "Computationally Manageable Combinational Auctions", Management Science, Aug. 1998, p. 1131-1147.*
Alexander Reinefeld et al, "Enhanced Iterative-Deepening Search", IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, Jul. 1994, p. 701-710.*
Curt Powley et al., "Single-Agent Parallel Window Search", IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence, May 1991, p. 466-477.

ART-UNIT: 214

PRIMARY-EXAMINER: Downs; Robert W.

ASSISTANT-EXAMINER: Patel; Jagdish

ABSTRACT:

Disclosed is a method and data structures for solution of problems of the class equivalent to optimal allocation determination in a combinatorial auction. The method stores bids in a binary tree which is searched in conjunction with a stopmask data structure which allows, in effect, parts of the binary tree to be instantly pruned during search and in place. Depth-first search in this tree can be done in place without an open list or recursive calls. The main search method operates via recursive call and generates each allocation of positive value once but does not generate others.

21 Claims, 9 Drawing figures

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5905975.uref. and aggregat$	11

Database: US Patents Full-Text Database
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JPO Abstracts Database
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Derwent World Patents Index
IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

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Search History

DATE: Wednesday, July 24, 2002 Printable Copy Create Case

Set Name side by side	Query	Hit Count	Set Name result set
DB=USPT,PGPB,JPAB,EPAB,DWPI,TDBD; PLUR=YES; OP=OR			
L39	5905975.uref. and aggregat$	11	L39
L38	5905975.uref.	26	L38
L37	l36 and aggregat$	9	L37
L36	5862223.uref.	38	L36
L35	l2 and aggregat$	0	L35
L34	l3 and aggregat$	0	L34
L33	l4 and aggregat$	0	L33
L32	l5 and aggregat$	1	L32
L31	l6 and aggregat$	0	L31
L30	l7 and aggregat$	1	L30
L29	l8 and aggregat$	0	L29
L28	l9 and aggregat$	1	L28
L27	l10 and aggregat$	0	L27
L26	l11and aggregat$	155620	L26
L25	L11and aggregat$	155620	L25
L24	L12 and aggregat$	0	L24
L23	L13 and aggregat$	0	L23
L22	L14 and aggregat$	0	L22
L21	L15 and aggregat$	0	L21
L20	L16 and aggregat$	0	L20
L19	L18 and aggregat$	0	L19
L18	5818914.pn.	2	L18
L17	L16	2	L17
L16	5708780.pn.	2	L16
L15	5715314.pn.	2	L15
L14	5715402.pn.	2	L14
L13	5732400.pn.	3	L13
L12	5774873.pn.	3	L12
L11	5794207.pn.	3	L11
L10	5794210.pn.	3	L10
L9	5794207.pn.	3	L9
L8	5855008.pn.	3	L8
L7	5862223.pn.	3	L7
L6	5890138.pn.	3	L6
L5	5905975.pn.	3	L5
L4	5913202.pn.	3	L4
L3	5913214.pn.	2	L3
L2	5915209.pn.	3	L2
L1	591529.pn.	4	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

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Search Results - Record(s) 1 through 1 of 1 returned.

☐ 1. Document ID: US 5905975 A

L32: Entry 1 of 1 File: USPT

US-PAT-NO: 5905975
DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 5905975 A

TITLE: Computer implemented methods and apparatus for auctions

DATE-ISSUED: May 18, 1999

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Ausubel; Lawrence M.	Washington	DC	20008	

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/37; 705/26, 707/104.1

Full | Title | Citation | Front | Review | Classification | Date | Reference | Sequences | Attachments | KWIC | Draw. Desc | Image

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